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H I P A A L E R T - lite -- July 17, 2002

>>From Phoenix Health Systems--HIPAA Knowledge--HIPAA Solutions<<  
>> Healthcare IT Consulting & Outsourcing <<

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H I P A A n e w s

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\*\*\* ER Patients' Privacy at Risk in Reality TV \*\*\*

Lights, camera, heart attack: Medical "reality" TV shows have some doctors worried about patient privacy, reports USA Today. An article in yesterday's Journal of the American Medical Association entitled "Commercial Filming of Patient Care Activities in Hospitals," calls for improved protection of patient privacy in the face of growing numbers of TV shows that literally film life-and-death trauma in the nation's emergency rooms.

Read more: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.cfm#0717usa>

\*\*\* WEDI: Cut Employer ID Hyphen \*\*\*

Health Data Management reports the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) is asking the Department of Health and Human Services to reconsider use of a hyphen in the recently adopted employer identifier number. The Standard Unique Identifier for Employers final rule, published in May, adopts the Internal

Revenue Services' Employer Identifier Number (EIN) as a standard identifier for health care. The nine-digit identifier includes a hyphen after the first two digits. In recently submitted comments, WEDI argues the hyphen could create data transmission problems and cause unnecessary burdens, defeating HIPAA's administrative simplification goals.

Read more: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.cfm#0716hdm>

\*\*\* Privacy Officer Is Possibility at Security Department \*\*\*

The New York Times reports the Bush administration said last week that it was open to the idea of installing a chief privacy officer in a new Department of Homeland Security to make sure it weighed issues of confidentiality and the secure handling of personal information. Representative Bob Barr (R-GA), who heads the House Judiciary subcommittee on commercial and administrative law, opened a subcommittee hearing by asking the Office of Management and Budget what steps would be taken "to ensure the privacy of personally identifiable information as the new agency establishes necessary databases that coordinate with other agencies of the government."

Read more: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/news/index.cfm#0711nyt>

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New in HIPAAAction >

HIPAAcompliance > Specific Groups:

\* HIPAA Tips for Docs \*

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/compliance/specific.htm#dr>

HIPAAwareness:

\* OCR's "What's Your Privacy IQ?" online HIPAA quiz \*

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/HIPAAwareness.htm#ocrquiz>

\* Is HIPAA Really Happening? \*

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/HIPAAwareness.htm#071602hl>

\* Handling of Health Data is a Difficult Issue \*

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/action/HIPAAwareness.htm#071002dn>

New in HIPAAviews:

\* AIDS and Privacy Groups Criticize Proposed Changes to the Privacy Rule \*

<http://www.hipaadvisory.com/views/privacynprm.htm#aids>

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HIPAAalert-lite is our weekly version of HIPAAalert, Phoenix Health Systems' acclaimed monthly email newsletter.

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Our Other HIPAA resources:

HIPAAAdvisory web site: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com>

HIPAAnotes Weekly Byte of HIPAA: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/notes/>

HIPAAlive Discussion List: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/live/>

HIPAAlive-Premium: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/live/prem.htm>

HIPAAlive Doc Site: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/MembersOnlySignup/>

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